



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York		OFFICIAL FILE COPY
Maggie Brooks County Executive		No. 040301
Richard J. Zyla, Esq. Attala, Zyla & Associates Deputy County Executive		
Legislature of Monroe County Committee Assignment AGENDA/CHARTER WAYS & MEANS		
August 2, 2004		

To The Honorable

Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Enactment of a Local Law Amending the Monroe County Administrative Code and Charter Relating to the Annual Budget Process

Honorable Legislators:

On January 30, 2004, County Executive Maggie Brooks appointed the Monroe County Budget Advisory Team (BAT) to serve as independent advisors on issues affecting Monroe County's budget. This diverse team of 24 business professionals, financial experts and community leaders has met over the past several months, conducting a top-to-bottom review of the Monroe County Budget and evaluating the recommendations of several previous budget reform efforts.

The BAT was charged with providing recommendations for both immediate and long-term implementation to help us confront and resolve our fiscal challenges while also keeping faith with the taxpayers of our community. To that end, the BAT has recently completed its work and submitted its final report, entitled, *From Crisis to Stability*.

Among the many significant recommendations in the BAT report, the top priority identified by the Team was a recommendation that the Annual County Budget adoption process be altered. The relevant text of that recommendation, from the Executive Summary of the final report, is as follows:

Key Recommendations

1.) Alter The Budget Process

- For more efficient budget development, multi-year budget forecasting should be implemented. This will improve the County's ability to plan and program resources, help identify and prioritize a change agenda in Albany and Washington that better serves our community, and help it to better understand and manage the consequences of current year decisions on future budgets.

We are pleased to note that the County Executive has directed the implementation of multi-year budget forecasting, starting with her proposed 2005 Monroe County Budget.

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- The Budget should be developed and presented as two separate documents that clearly present spending by mandated and non-mandated services. This will help the County to illustrate more clearly for taxpayers the negative impact of unfunded mandates, and will assist the County in developing a prioritized agenda for seeking mandate relief from our State and Federal governments.

- The Mandated and Non-Mandated budget documents should be presented so as to reflect those areas under the jurisdiction of the following elected officials who are elected by and responsible to the taxpayers of Monroe County: County Executive, Sheriff, County Clerk, District Attorney, and County Legislator.

We are in full agreement with this recommendation, and believe that it is critically important to this year's budget process, as well as those in the future, that these proposals be enacted into law. Accordingly, we recommend that Your Honorable Body adopt amendments to the Monroe County Administrative Code and Charter to effectuate these changes.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Enact a local law amending the Monroe County Charter and Administrative Code, as attached.
2. Hold a Public Hearing on this proposed local law.

We recommend that this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Maggie Brooks

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Wayne E. Zyla

President
Monroe County Legislature

C. Michael Rowe
Legislator - District 26